Development of Barauni Refinery

†2016. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of Barauni oil refinery in Bihar; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government for development of said oil refinery?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Capacity expansion project of Barauni refinery for increasing the crude processing capacity from 4.2 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) to 6.0 MMTPA was completed in December, 2002. Currently the refinery is operating at 5.0 MMTPA in line with product demand.

(b) In order to improve the profitability of Barauni refinery, a crude oil pipeline from Paradip to Haldia has been approved. The project is scheduled to be completed by March, 2006

Petroleum Pricing Policy

2017. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to announce a new Petroleum Pricing Policy in lieu of the existing fortnightly revision of prices; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Since the announcement of the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in the petroleum sector effective 1 4.2002,the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have been determining the selling prices of petroleum products, except petrol, diesel, PDS kerosene and domestic LPG for which prior consultations with the Government of India have been held. In the case of PDS kerosene and domestic LPG Government provides a flat rate of subsidy and, in addition, the oil PSUs have been partly sharing the burden of subsidizing these products.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.